



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Some 225 attend DA Keating's Underage Drinking Prevention Conference



Cutline: District Attorney William Keating, right, thanks conference speakers Kathi Meyer, whose daughter Taylor died after wandering away from an underage drinking party and Corey Scanlan, who was convicted of the motor vehicle homicide of his two best friends after a night of drinking.

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More than 225 education and law enforcement leaders, including police chiefs, superintendents and elected officials from across Norfolk County met with District Attorney William R. Keating to learn community strategies to prevent the problems related to underage drinking.

"Teens who drink, even moderately, are much more likely to be injured in car crashes, become victims of sexual assault or injure their futures," District Attorney Keating said after the conference. "Having so many attend this conference signals how seriously we as a region takes the threat to our young population."

District Attorney Keating detailed research findings that in some 90 percent of acquaintance rape, one or both of the parties involved have been drinking. And that automobile crashes are the number one killer of Americans under age 24. The conference, organized by Keating, started with Harvard Medical School Dr. Marisa Silveri, detailing research on the effects of alcohol on the adolescent brain. Dartmouth Medical School professor Dr. Martha Straus then focused on "Girls, Crisis and Substance Abuse." Corey Scanlon, who was convicted for the motor vehicle homicide of his two best friends and Kathi Meyer, whose daughter Taylor died last fall after wandering away from an underage drinking party, dramatically shared the personal consequences to offenders and victims. Attorney Richard Campbell warned of the financial and legal consequences to homeowners who host or provide alcohol to underage drinkers.

"The conference was designed so that we look not from the narrow perspective associated with our day-to-day jobs, but look comprehensively, and recognize how difficult this problem can be," District Attorney Keating said.

A video featuring Corey Scanlan's story, produced by District Attorney Keating's office, and additional underage drinking resources are available at www.norfolkda.com.

The conference, held in April in Wrentham, was made possible by **U.S. Department of Justice** funding provided through the **Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Highway Safety Division**.

Any and all defendants mentioned are legally innocent until proven guilty.